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SUBJECT: Activities of Hajj Amin al-Husseini and Abdul Rahman Shah

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This report contains information regarding the plans of Hajj Amin al-Husseini, former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, to create a volunteer battalion to conduct guerrilla warfare against Israel. It also gives details about the commercial activities of Abdul Rahman Shah, the son-in-law of the Grand Mufti, and how his commercial ventures tie in with the Mufti's plans.

FOR COORDINATION WITH

1. Hajj Amin al-Husseini, former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem and currently a resident of Beirut, Lebanon, recently returned from a trip to Tunisia, Morocco, and possibly Algeria. The purpose of this trip was to meet with Algerian rebel leaders to discuss guerrilla warfare techniques and the Mufti's plan to organize a volunteer battalion to conduct guerrilla-type warfare against the State of Israel. According to source the Mufti is more determined than ever to organize such a volunteer battalion. He would like to employ an experienced master of Algerian rebel fighters to form the nucleus of such a force, primarily since the Algerian rebels have had many years of experience in this type warfare. The Mufti is hoping that he can soon undertake discussions with the new Syrian regime about the possibility of acquiring a strip of Syrian territory in which to establish an "entire government" and organize and train his volunteer battalion. Recently the Mufti has been exploring the possibility of setting up a broadcasting station for his "entire government". He has gone so far as to request quotations on the cost of such an installation and has sent his son-in-law, Shah, to Saudi Arabia to learn the broadcasting business with the firm of Al-Jazeera in Riyadh. Although the Mufti is all gaily receiving funds from the ruler of Kuwait and from Feroz Hassan of Iraq, money to organize and pay a battalion of men appears to be the Mufti's greatest problem at the moment.

2. Abdul Rahman Shah, a former 1st Cavalry in the Egyptian Army and son-in-law of the Mufti, founded a commercial firm in Beirut about one year ago and is now actively engaged in expanding the scope of the firm's operations. The purpose of this expansion is to increase the income of the firm so that additional funds can be made available to the Mufti to support his scheme. Shah's company is evidently prospering already. He recently sold a large quantity of uniforms to Kuwait in which he earned a profit of 150,000 Lebanese pounds. Shah has drawn up plans to open branch offices in Kuwait, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Baghdad, Iraq. He also plans to establish a central purchasing office in West Germany and hopes to open a branch office in Damascus when the new government there is established. He intends to employ a German secretary in his

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Beirut office to handle German and English correspondence and may eventually place a European in each of the branch offices. The firm will deal primarily in the sale of military items; uniforms, equipment, supplies, etc. According to source, SAAD has excellent possibilities of making a success of this venture since the Mufti still has considerable influence in various Middle East areas and will be able to throw much business in SAAD's direction. Several relatives of the Mufti hold positions in the Iraqi Arabian Government also. SAAD was scheduled to meet with the Minister of Health and the Minister of Defense of Kuwait on 5 December 1961 regarding the establishment of a branch office in Kuwait and the prospect of contracts there. From Kuwait, SAAD planned to travel to Baghdad to seek an audience with Premier NASSIR on the same subject.

3. SAAD's business card reads: Saad Trading Office, Civil Engineering and Contracting, Export-Import, Telephone 248910, POB 6880, Beirut, Lebanon, Cable: AFRASMA. SAAD's home telephone number in Beirut is 249055.

SOURCE COMMENT: SAAD's firm will also make all of the military purchases for the Mufti and will provide cover for some of the Mufti's activities.

4. On 27 November 1961, SAAD allegedly gave the go-ahead on a bullet-proof Mercedes for the Mufti. However, since no credit has been established and no money has changed hands, this order is not considered firm as yet by the manufacturer.

(Classification)